

Hingtgen, Robert J

Subject: RE: El Monte Sand Mine & Nature Preserve

From: tridiggy Digenan [<mailto:tridigenan@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 9:55 AM

To: Bennett, Jim

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My concerns for this sand mining project are as follows:

I am concerned about the impact of the disturbance of soils that are known to contain and have caused Valley Fever. Valley Fever is the most virulent fungal infection known to man. It only takes one spore to enter the body to infect a person for life. It usually causes severe pneumonia, forms nodules on the lungs but it can spread to all major organs in the body. This is called dissemination. The disseminated form can devastate the body causing skin ulcers, abscesses, bone lesions. swollen joints with severe pain, heart inflammation, urinary tract infections and inflammation of the brain lining which can lead to death. Most at risk for dissemination are Africa-Americans, Filipinos, men, those with immune system deficiencies such as organ transplants, Hodgkin's patients, pregnant women in the third trimester, cancer patients, those with HIV/AIDS and those on long term cortisone therapies.

Valley Fever is incurable and can effect anyone who breathes. It has severe lifelong health consequences for its victims and often death. Medications are expensive and can only at best bring dormancy of Valley Fever in the body. According to the CDC in a report called Emerging infectious Diseases, in California 2000-2011, 25,217 people were hospitalized with Valley Fever. The average cost of hospitalization due to valley fever was \$186 million/year, over \$2 billion over the decade, more than half of those hospitalized had to stay more than 1 week and the average cost was \$55,000 per patient.

There are 15 trillion spores that cause Valley Fever in 1 cubic inch of soil. These spores multiply exponentially as the dirt is disturbed. The proposed mining operation will cause constant soil disturbance of the soil for many years. Valley Fever cannot be mitigated by wetting wetting the soil. Actually incidences increase after wet soils dry and are disturbed called "grow and blow", referring to growth of the fungus in wet conditions. Animals also get Valley Fever. Dogs, horses,sheep,burros,coyotes,rodents and snakes can come down with Valley Fever.The El Monte Valley and surrounding areas areas are dense with these animal populations. An important consideration in this matter is to remember that as the air flows El Monte Valley is only 20 miles for the San Diego Coastline. Many lives could be deeply and adversely effected by this mining project. A new EIR needs to be done.

Thank You for your consideration and time in this matter

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